CHAPTER 07: "AIHARA ENJU"

ACTUALLY, I'M ONLY HERE TO TALK WITH YOU.
SATOMI-KUN
BASTARD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HELL NO!
SO WHY DON'T YOU LOWER YOUR GUN, AS WELL?
GOODNESS...
SNAP!
OKAY DADDY...
KOHINA...
CUT OFF HIS RIGHT ARM,

DON'T MOVE...
HEY,
OR...
I'LL TAKE OFF...
...YOUR HEAD

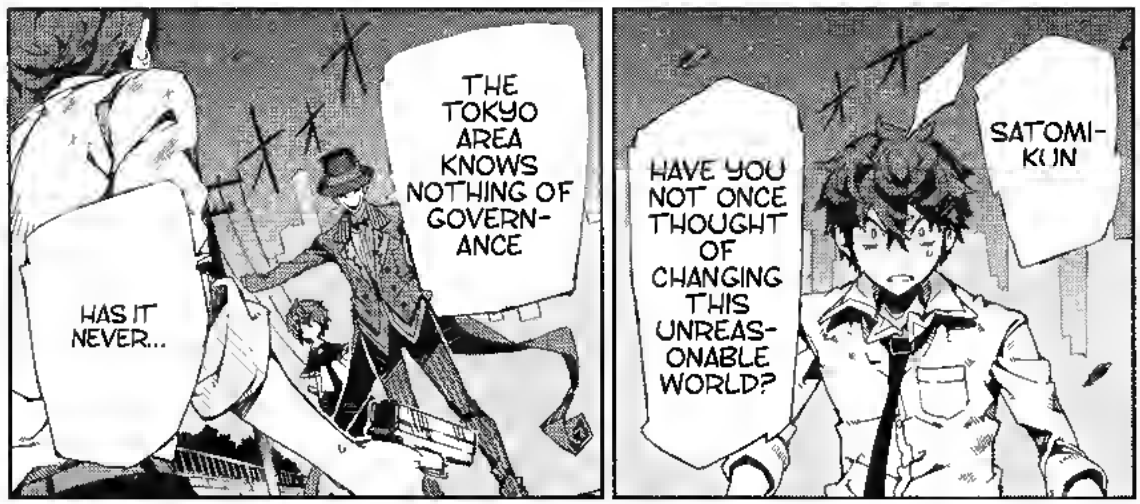
HM?
HMPH!
?!
WHO ARE YOU?
HEY, SMALL FRY!
A MODEL RABBIT INITIA-TOR!
MY NAME IS ENJU AIHARA ENJU!
HMPH!
HOW RUDE!
YOU'RE SMALL, TOO!

I AM MODEL MANTIS
HIRUKO KOHINA
ENJU
ENJU
ENJU
I REMEMBER...
I AM INVINCIBLE
IN TERMS OF CQC...
HEH HEH HEH
HEY DADDY...
NO.
THAT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR TODAY
OH...
YOU'RE SUCH A MEANIE, DADDY!
CAN I CUT THAT RABBIT UP?
I'LL ONLY CUT IT'S HEAD OFF SO CAN I, PLEASE?
NOW, SATOMI-KUN.
WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON PLEASAN-TRIES
SO I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

WON'T YOU BECOME MY ALLY?

BUT I WON'T KILL YOU IF YOU COME TO MY SIDE
I WANTED TO KILL YOU
NOW, FOR SOME REASON, I TOOK A LIKING TO YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET
WHA-?!

WHEN THE GREAT STORM OF EXTIN-CTION DISTROYS TOKYO
YOU SHALL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR
I HAVE MANY POWERFUL PEOPLE BEHIND ME RIGHT NOW


HAS IT NEVER...
THE TOKYO AREA KNOWS NOTHING OF GOVERN-ANCE
HAVE YOU NOT ONCE THOUGHT OF CHANGING THIS UNREAS-ONABLE WORLD?
SATOMI-KUN

?!
...CROSSED YOUR MIND?
...HOW I FEEL...
THIS IS SIMPLY...
JOIN ME,
SATOMI RENT-AROU!
THEY ARE THE VERY LINK TO SURPASSING THE STATUS OF HOMO SAPIENS
AS A HUMAN BEING BY LETTING HER GO TO SCHOOL, BUT WHY BOTHER?
YOU MAY TREAT LITTLE ENJU OVER THERE
THEN WE MUST GAIN THAT POWER
IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE THE DISASTER THAT WILL BEFALL US...

DON'T FUCK WITH ME....
IS THAT SO?
YOU REALLY INSIST ON CONTINUING THIS FOOLISH-NESS?!
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!
HIRUKO KAGETANE!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU APPEASE THEM...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY...
THEY WILL ALWAYS BE READY TO BETRAY YOU!!
LET US TAKE A TIME-OUT, SATOMI-KUN.
WELL...
I DO NOT ENJOY GOING ABOUT THIS WAY HOWEVER.
YOU SHOULD GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW AND HAVE A LOOK.
IT IS ABOUT TIME...
.. YOU FACE REALITY AS WELL

SHE'S STRONG...
...VERY MUCH SO
?!
THAT INITIATOR...
...RENTAROU
CAN YOU WIN?
...I SEE
I DON'T KNOW...

WHA-?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

..GOT IT.
..RIGHT..
YEAH.

I'M ON MY WAY

...WHAT THE HELL IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
JUST...
YOU MUST BE HER GUARDIAN

多田小学校

SEE YOU NEXT TI--
OH.

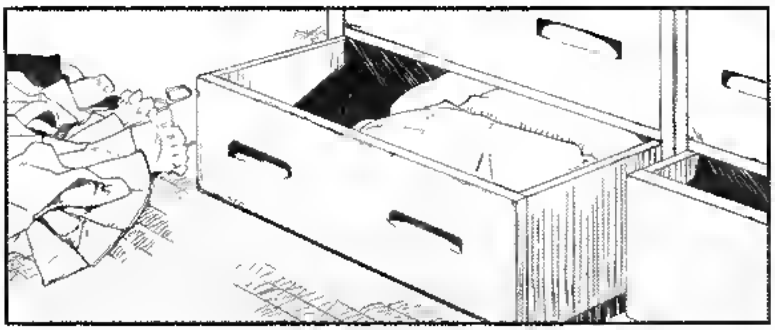
YES.
ENJU IS...

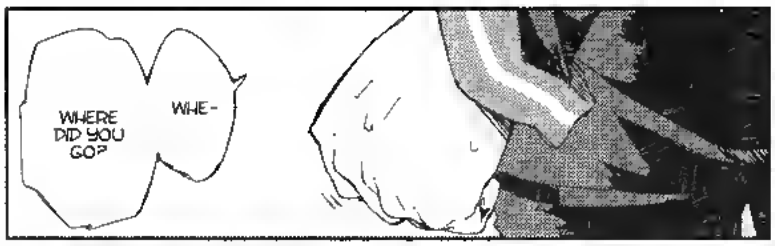
ENJU...
DID SHE DENY-
SATOMI-SAN
NO!
WELL...
THERE ARE RUMORS OF AIHARA-SAN BEING ONE OF THE CURSED CHILDREN...
UGH!
AND LET AIHARA-SAN ENROLL, DID YOU NOT?
YOU KEPT THE FACT THAT SHE WAS A CURSED CHILD FROM US
...BUT CAN YOU GO TAKE CARE OF HER?
IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO SAY THIS...
SATOMI-SAN.
WELL, AIHARA-SAN WAS QUITE SHAKEN ABOUT IT, SO I LET HER LEAVE EARLY FOR THE DAY
IF I HAD TOLD YOU, THERE'S NO DOUBT YOU WOULD HAVE
REJECTED HER!

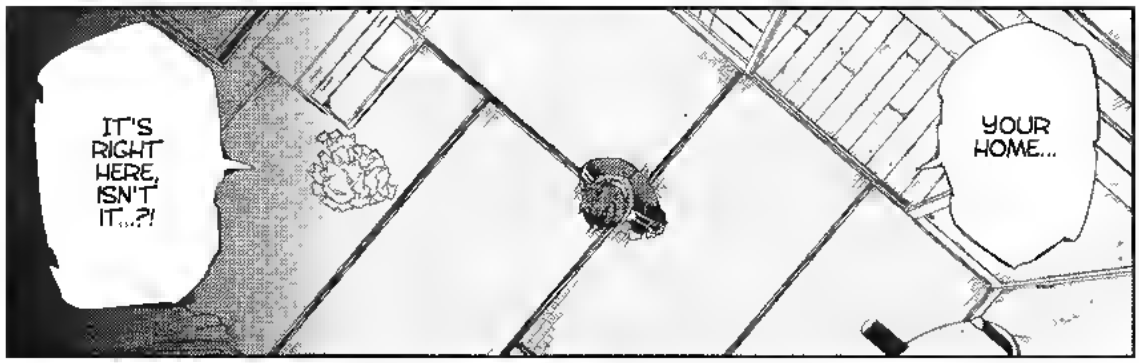
IT IS ABOUT TIME YOU FACE REALITY AS WELL...
TCH!
I DO NOT ENJOY GOING ABOUT IT THIS WAY...
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE SCHOOL TOMORROW AND HAVE A LOOK.
あのヤロウッ!!
THAT BASTARD!!
あのヤロウッ!
THAT BASTARD!!
ENJU!!

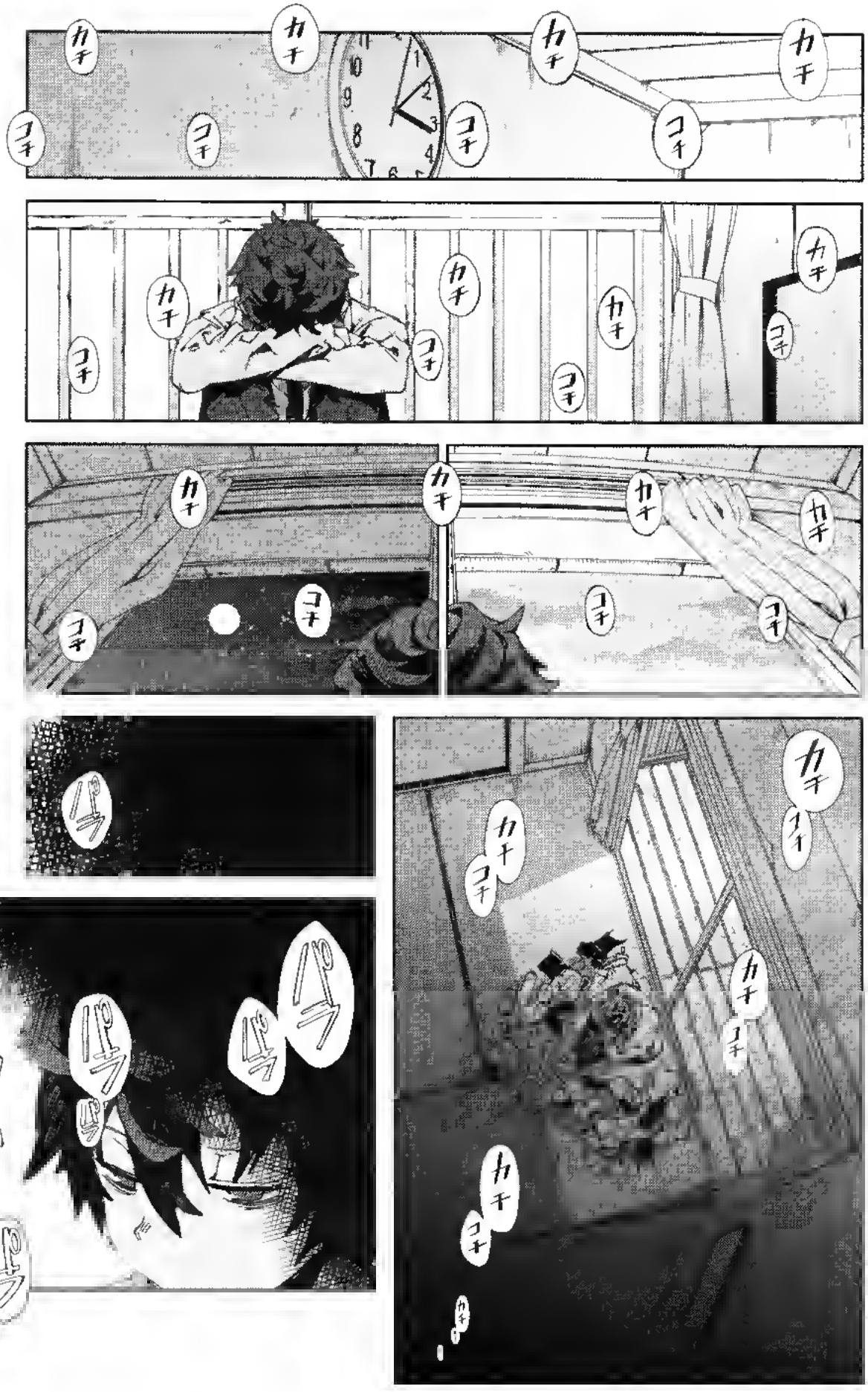
EN--
!

WHERE ARE YOU?
ENJU...




WHERE DID YOU GO?
WHE-


IT'S RIGHT HERE, ISN'T IT...?!
YOUR HOME...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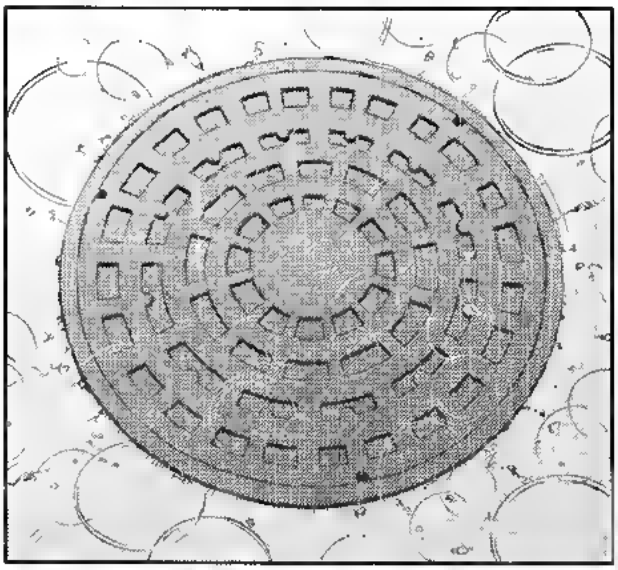
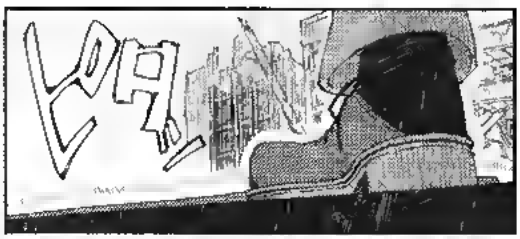
HEY, RENTA-ROU~!
LOOK, RENTA-ROU!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS SHIRT?
DO I LOOK GOOD IN THEM? AM I CUTE?
漫食神制御

TERMINAL STATION
THIS IS THE LAST STOP
EXIT THE TRAIN
THANK YOU FOR RIDING

外周区

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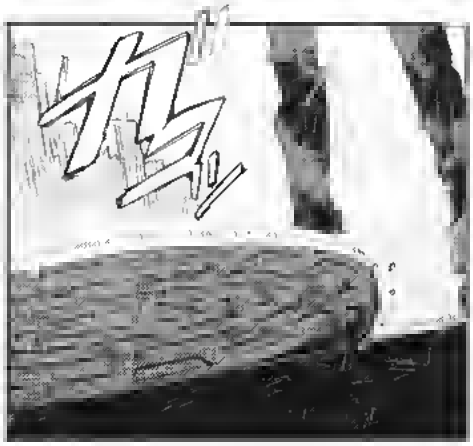
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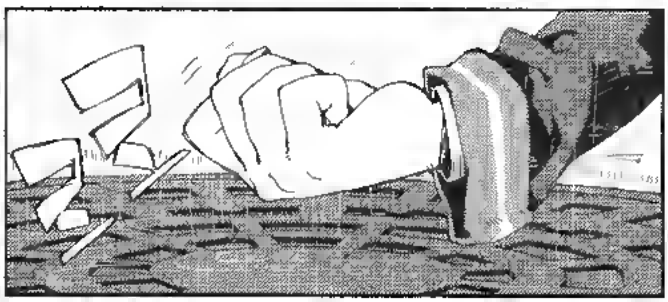


CIVIL SEC-URITY...
I'M LOOKING FOR THE GIRL IN THIS PICTURE
HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
YES?
UH
I'LL GO AND GET HIM, SO PLEASE COME IN!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR OUR ELDER THEN.
SURE!
BUT YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW ANY ADULTS, DO YOU?
I'D LIKE TO ASK SOMEONE ELSE.
HM...
MMMM... I DUNNO.
MMHM...
...SO YOU'RE THE ELDER?
HA HA HA
WHAT DO I OWE THIS PLEASURE, OFFICER?
MY GOOD-NESS!
ELDER!

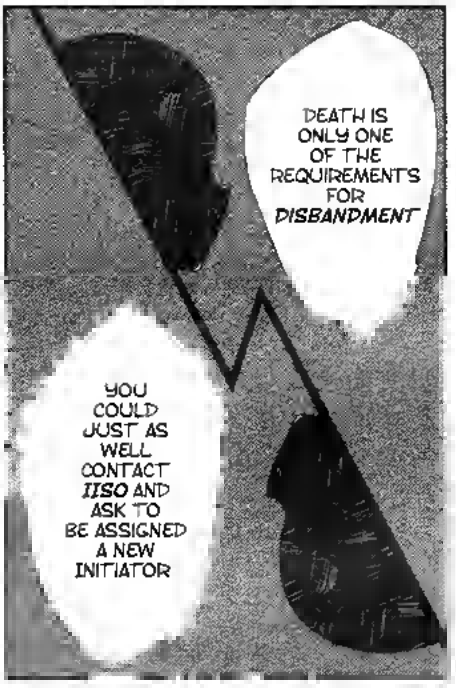
'ELDER' IS ONLY A NICKNAME
I LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN HERE
THE NAME'S MAT-SUZAKI
OH
I SEE
OK
AS CIVIL SECURITY, YOU SHOULD BE WELL AWARE OF THIS...
NO MATTER HOW SAFE THIS PLACE IS FOR THEM...
...IT IS NO PLACE FOR A GIRL TO BE
ALL OF THE CURSED CHILDREN ARE FEMALE
THE GENDER OF AN EMBRYO IS LONG DECIDED
THE GASTREA GENE LOCKS IN SEX BEFORE CELL SPECIALIZATION KICKS IN
I WOULD LIKE THEM TO LEAVE THIS PLACE,
AND MINGLE WITH REGULAR PEOPLE, HOWEVER-

...MAT-SUZAKI-SAN
WELL...
YOU'VE LOST YOUR ENTIRE WORLD TOO, HAVEN'T YOU...?
THEIR RED EYES WOULD ATTRACT A LOT OF UNWANTED ATTENTION
SO I TEACH THEM THE BARE MINIMUM TO QUELL THEIR CURIOSITY
GASTREA'S INVASION OF HUMANITY
THEY'RE JUST VICTIMS OF THE PURE WORLD
THE WOMB VIOLATED BY THEIR VIRUS
IT DOESN'T MATTER...
IF ONLY...
IF ONLY EVERYONE FELT THE SAME WAY YOU DID...
HER NAME'S ENJU
AIHARA ENJU
AH, THAT'S RIGHT, MAT-SUZAKI-SAN.
DID THIS KID COME BY HERE?

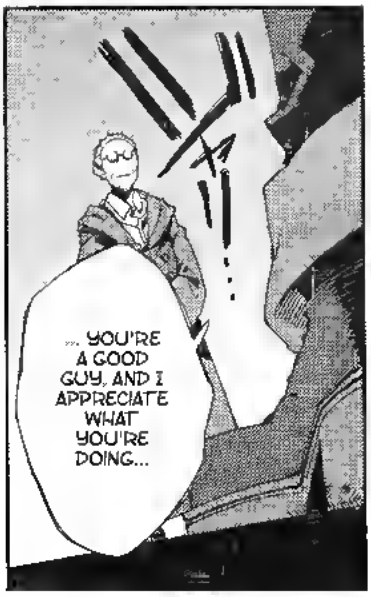
I'M SORRY...
BUT SHE DOESN'T RING ANY BELLS.
I SEE...
HMM...
SORRY
LOOKS LIKE I'VE TAKEN ENOUGH OF YOUR TIME
WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO GO FROM HERE?
I'LL HAVE TO LOOK AROUND ABOVE SOME MORE.
IT'S HER HOME-TOWN AFTER ALL...
WELL, GUESS
YOU LOOK LIKE
A PROMOTER WHOSE PARTNER HAS ABANDONED HIM.
ISN'T IT BETTER LIKE THIS?
WHAT?!

I'VE BECOME QUITE WISE ON THE SUBJECT
WHILE THESE GIRLS HAVE BEEN UNDER MY CARE
IT'S NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY
FOR A CIVIL SECURITY DUO TO BE AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER.

IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR AGE
BUT AS LONG AS YOU SHOW RESULTS YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET IT ALL BACK
YOU'LL LOSE QUITE A BIT OF STANDING IN IP.


DEATH IS ONLY ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR *DISBANDMENT*
YOU COULD JUST AS WELL CONTACT *IISO* AND ASK TO BE ASSIGNED A NEW INITIATOR

THAT WAS A LINE YOU *DO NOT* CROSS
BUT...


... YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, AND I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING...

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT US!
SO YOU BETTER SHUT YOUR MOUTH RIGHT NOW!

I'M SORRY.
...ン ン
LOOK..
カラ
カッ
カッ
SEE YA AROUND.
I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR HAIR
I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET SO RILED UP
HE'S GOING TO GET HIMSELF LOST AT THIS RATE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET HIM WANDER AROUND?
LITTLE MISS?
WHAT A NICE YOUNG MAN.

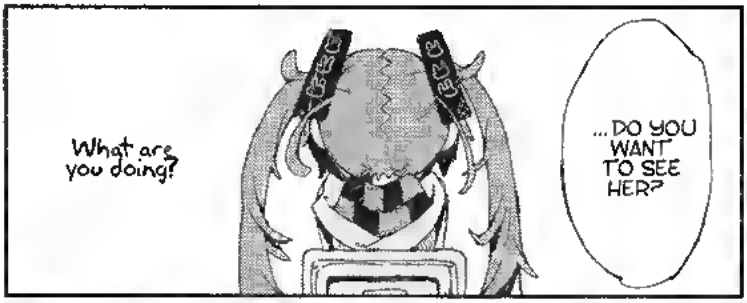
WHA-?!
AIHARA-SAN ATTENDED SCHOOL TODAY.
Finally!
Let's go already!
WHA-?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
I'M ON MY WAY!

THE CLASS IS JUST ..
AIHARA-SAN CAME IN AS USUAL THIS MORNING
HOWEVER .

THEY'VE BEEN LIKE THIS ALL DAY...

SHE HASN'T SAID A SINGLE WORD EITHER...
Enju...

AIHARA-SAN...


What are you doing?
...DO YOU WANT TO SEE HER?

HERE

HEY, TEACH....

DOES SHE HAVE SOME SORT OF ILLNESS, OR..
WELL, SHE HAS THIS THING WHERE..
NO.
COULD YOU GIVE THIS TO HER?
THEN SHOULDN'T YOU GIVE THIS TO HER YOUR-
...THEY'RE GASTREA GENE SUPPRESSANTS.
THANKS

I WOULD LOVE TO!
DISSECTION, YOU SAY?
AW...
'AW'?!
I WANTED TO ASK YOU WHAT I SHOULD DO FROM HERE ON OUT!!
NO!!
HM!?
ARE YOU GETTING ALL THIS?!
OH, RIGHT.
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL SHOULD I-
THE GIRL WHO WAS SHOT BY THE POLICE, ENJU'S RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME, AND THE KIDS I MET IN THE GHETTOS...
LIKE I SAID EARLIER

COME ON, RENTAROU-KUN
YOU'RE BORING ME WITH ALL YOUR REALLY NORMAL WORRIES.
HOPELESS!!
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD SNACK ON TONIGHT!
...HAVE TO ERADICATE THE GASTREA?
AND THINK ABOUT IT. WHY DO WE...
CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO VIEW THEM AS GOD'S WISH TO CLEANSE THIS WORLD OF IT'S POLLUTION
WELL... YOU KNOW... BECAUSE THE GASTREA FEED ON HUMANS AND OVERWRITE OUR GENETIC CODE.
ALL RIGHT

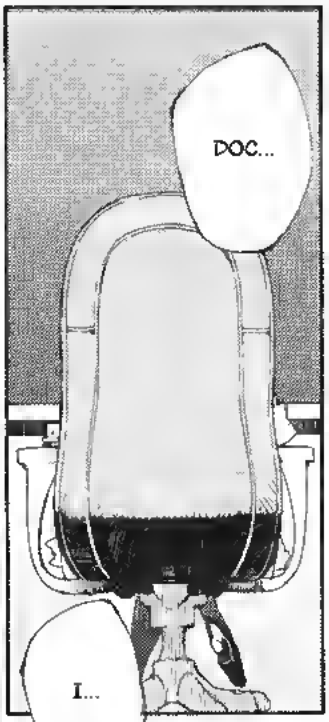
HOW...
MANKIND'S HEAVY USE OF ENERGY
IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF SPACESHIP EARTH'S SLOW DEATH AFTER ALL
IT'D BE MUCH BETTER IF WE JUST WENT EXTINCT
AND LET EVOLUTION TAKE CARE OF THE REST
SO, WHAT?!
MANKIND ISN'T NEEDED ANYMORE?
THIS IS ALL JUST CRAZY TALK!
AND IF THE GASTREA ARE GOD'S SERVANTS, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE THE CURSED CHILDREN?
WELL...
...THEY ARE MESSENGERS OF GOD WHO CARRY OUT THE TASK OF OBSERVING HUMANITY AND THE GASTREA

ENJU IS A HUMAN BEING!
SHE HAS A PERSONALITY AND A PURPOSE IN LIFE!
SHE'S NOTHING MORE,
AND NOTHING LESS THAN THAT!!
WELL, THERE YOU GO.
SEE? YOU DO GET IT!
!

LISTEN, RENTAROU-KUN
YOU HAVE IT EASY BECAUSE YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE.
BUT ENJU-CHAN DOESN'T HAVE THAT LUXURY
HUH?!
ALL THOSE KIDS IN THE GHETTOS,
THEY ARE ALONE.
THEY DON'T KNOW WHO THEIR PARENTS ARE
THEY'RE STEPPED ON BY THE PEOPLE WHILE NOT KNOWING A SINGLE THING
THEY'RE LOOKED UPON WITH FEAR AND DISDAIN.
BUT YOU...
...YOU SAID THEY'RE JUST AS HUMAN AS YOU ARE, DIDN'T YOU?
SO WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?
BEING WITH ENJU-CHAN
HELPING HER UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THE TWO OF YOU...

YOU'RE FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?

I THINK...
I'LL GO AND SEE ENJU!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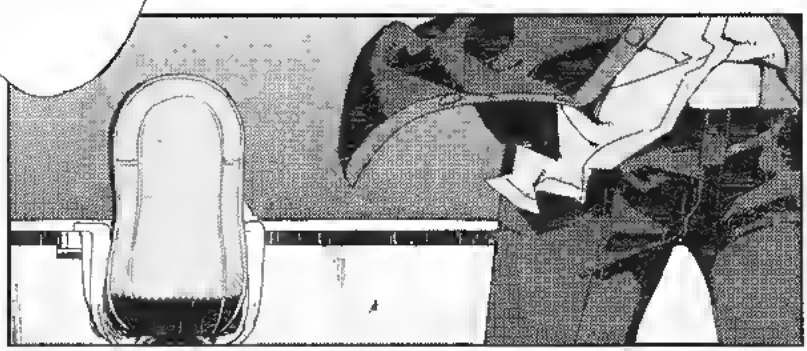
I...



BEEP
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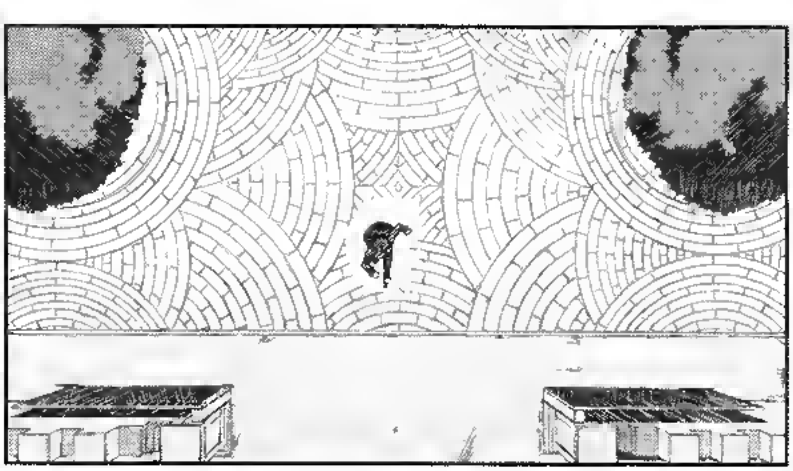

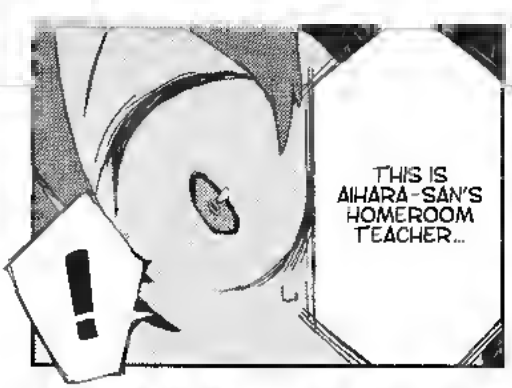
!
THIS IS AIHARA-SAN'S HOMEROOM TEACHER...

BEEP
HELLO?
HELLO,
IS THIS SATOMI-SAN?
YES?

QUITE A MESS...
延珠にいったい何が!?
急げ、蓮太郎!!

THINGS HAVE BECOME...

World Three

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